

Application: 10/806,657
Filed: Mar. 22, 2004
Examiner: James M. Hewitt, Art Unit 3679

AMENDMENT
Dated: 12/12/2005
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REMARKS

1. Non-Fee AMENDMENT

In relevant part, the present AMENDMENT involves the revision of existing claims. The number of independent and dependent claims is unchanged. Further, there are no multiple dependent claims. The filing fee for the existing claims was paid previously.

No additional fee for claims is required for this AMENDMENT.

2. Entry of AMENDMENT

As-filed Figure 8 depicts annular grooves in the cuffs 45 and 48 which embed the pipe ends 41 and 42. These grooves are now specified in claims 1, 2 and 5 and in the specification, page 7, first paragraph. In addition the language describing the cuffs and pipe ends is conformed in claims 1, 2 and 5 and in the specification, page 7, first paragraph.

No new matter is involved. Entry of the specification and claim amendments is requested.

3. Reconsideration and Withdrawal of Rejection(s) of Claims 1, 2 and 5

Claims 1, 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanao US patent no. 5,429,357. Amended claims 1, 2 and 5 now specify annular cuffs having grooves which embed the associated pipe ends (claims 1 and 2) and a method of molding cuffs which forms annular grooves embedding the pipe ends (claim 5). Kanao '357 does not disclose pipe ends joined by embedding the pipe ends in grooves in mating, plastic bell and spigot cuffs. In a telephone discussion on or about October 7, 2005, examiner Hewitt and the undersigned discussed Kanao '357 and claims 1, 2 and 5. The present amendment of these claims (and of the specification) is the result of the undersigned's effort to incorporate the examiner's proposed language in the claims and specification.

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4. Summary and Action Requested

Entry of this AMENDMENT is requested. The examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 5. Allowance of claims 1, 2 and 5 is respectfully requested.

If the above discussion is incorrect regarding any aspect of the Office Action or the examiner's position expressed in the above-referenced telephone discussion, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, so that the misunderstanding may be corrected

Respectfully submitted,
LAW OFFICE OF PHILIP A. DALTON

Date: December 12, 2005

By Philip Dalton 12/12/05
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